

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6384

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, EI, FR

SUBJECT: FRANCO/IRISH ENTENTE

REF: STATE 008673, DUBLIN 1673 (NOTAL)

1. THE IRISH GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT CEARBHALL O DALAIGH WILL PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE MARCH 13-15 AT THE INVITATION OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT. THIS VISIT FOLLOWS ON THE HEELS OF THE NOVEMBER 14-15 VISIT TO DUBLIN OF THE FRENCH PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER, AT WHICH TIME AN INVITATION WAS EXTENDED TO THE LATE PRESIDENT ERSKINE CHILDERS. THE IRISH PRESIDENT IS NOT HEAD OF GOVERNMENT; THUS, THE RANGE OF SUBSTANTIVE TALKS IS LIKELY TO BE LIMITED. ON THE OTHER HAND, O DALAIGH IS AN ACTIVE, BROAD-GAUGED INTELLECTUAL AND VERY MUCH A
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"EUROPEANIST". PRIOR TO ASSUMING THE PRESIDENCY HE WAS

A JUDGE OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES. HE WAS CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE IRISH SUPREME COURT BETWEEN 1961 AND 1973.

2. ON SAME DAY AS ABOVE ANNOUNCEMENT. MORE PROMINENT NEWSPAPER COVERAGE WAS GIVEN TO FRENCH ATTEMPTS TO "DOWNGRADE" THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED REGIONAL FUND, A MAJOR IRISH INTEREST. "IRISH INDEPENDENT" HEADLINE READS "FITZGERALD HALTS THE FENCH BID TO TORPEDO EEC FUND." APPARENTLY FRENCH TRIED TO ALTER TEXT OF PARIS SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE TO SHOW THAT REGIONAL FUND HAD BEEN ADOPTED FOR A TRIAL PERIOD ONLY. INSIDE PAGE OF "IRISH TIMES" REPRODUCES A FRENCH EMBASSY "FINAL AND OFFICIAL" VERSION OF THE PARIS COMMUNIQUE WHICH HAS TWO LAST-MINUTE CHANGES. AFTER WORDING OF DECISION ON REGIONAL FUND, DIFFERENT TYPEWRITER HAS ADDED "FOR A TRIAL PERIOD." IRISH FONMIN FITZGERALD HAS REJECTED THE ADDITION, TELLING JOURNALISTS THAT "NO COUNTRY, EVEN THE HOST COUNTRY, CAN CHANGE THE COMMUNIQUE." THE OTHER CHANGE IN COMMUNIQUE DEALS WITH US/EC RELATIONS. THE WORDS "WITH SATISFACTION" ARE OMITTED FROM THE ITEM IN COMMUNIQUE WHICH ORIGINALLY READ "THEY NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THE ACCOUNT GIVEN BY THE CHANCELLOR OF THE FRG OF HIS TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE US."

3. COMMENT: WE GATHER THAT BOTH FRENCH AND IRISH ARE STILL WILLING TO DEVOTE SOME EFFORT TO MAINTAINING THEIR WORKING UNDERSTANDING. AT SAME TIME, IRISH GOVERNMENT SEEMS WILLING TO OPPOSE FRENCH DESIGNS WHEN THEY APPEAR TO CONFLICT WITH IRISH INTERESTS. WE DOUBT THAT REPORTERS WOULD HAVE DECIPHERED THE CASE OF THE ALTERED COMMUNIQUE WITHOUT HELP FROM THE FONOFF. THIS IS A CHANGE FROM THE EARLIER PERIOD WHEN IRISH APPEARED TO SECOND MOST EVERYTHING THAT FRENCH SAID.
MOORE

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